(c) whether in order to increase in the number of students, there is any plan to open new secondary schools; and

(d) if so, the comprehensive details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the report of the CABE (Central Advisory Board of Education) Committee on Universalization of Secondary Education (June, 2005), the projected increase in enrolment in classes IX-X in the year 2007-08 over the year 2006-07, assuming 100% success of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is 8.3. The percentage increase in projected enrolment for 2007-08 over 2006-07, assuming 75% success of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is 3.6.

(c) and (d) Since a majority of the secondary schools in the country are within the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is primarily for the State Governments to plan to open new secondary schools.

Education services *vis-a-vis* WTO

417. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANABHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has objected to the Commerce Ministry's proposal to alter India's offer to education services to WTO;

(b) if so, what are the main objections;

(c) whether his Ministry has expressed disagreement over the altered offer;

(d) if so, whether Government have referred to GoM, the Foreign Education Providers Bill which will bring all foreign education providers under UGC;

(e) to what extent, views of his Ministry have been considered and by what time a final decision is likely to be taken; and

(f) by when, Government are likely to introduce a legislation to regulate the entry and operation of foreign universities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. There is no change in India's offer in regard to educational services under the WTO.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (0 A proposal for the regulation of entry and operation, maintenance of quality and prevention of commercialization of education by Foreign Educational Institutions in higher education is currently under consideration of tiie Government Subject to finalisation of policy in this regard, an appropriate legislation would be introduced in Parliament at the earliest.

Dropout rate amongst SCs/STs

418. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINAKIDWAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dropout rate amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes children is as high as 37 per cent and 49 per cent respectively;

(b) if so, the latest figures pf dropout children from the schools in the country; arid

(c) the extent to which Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, education guarantee schemes andalternate schools have improved quality of education amongst the children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In 2003-04, at the national level, the dropout rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe children at the primary stage (Classes I—V) is 36.6%, and 48.9% respectively.

(c) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing dropout rates. The focus is on strengthening of primary and upper primary schools, improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers etc. Other interventions aim at improving the demandfor schooling through community mobilization, special interventions for enrolment and retention of vulnerable